

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 08560 241419Z

67

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 EUR-25 DRC-01 NIC-01 /150 W

----- 064400

R 241240Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0260

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8560

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: KNESSET DEBATE OVER GOI ACCEPTANCE OF CEASEFIRE

1. AFTER HEATED DEBATE INTO EARLY MORNING OCT 24 KNESSET ADOPTED A RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY GOVERNING COALITION IN SUPPORT OF MRS MEIR'S SPEECH EXPLAINING POLITICAL AND MILITARY REASONS FOR GOI ACCEPTANCE OF RES 338. HAND VOTE WAS TAKEN WITH OVER 100 (OUT OF 120) MEMBERS PRESENT BUT NO COUNT WAS ANNOUNCED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ONLY RIGHTWING BLOC LIKUD OPPOSED THE RES AND THE PRO-MOSCOW RAKAH COMMUNISTS ABSTAINED.

2. LIKUD LEADERS BEGIN AND RIMALT, UTILIZING SAME ARGUMENTS CONTAINED IN LIKUD'S OCT 22 DECLARATION (TEL AVIV 8503), SAID THAT GOI'S ACCEPTANCE OF CEASEFIRE WOULD INVITE RATHER THAN PREVENT FURTHER AGGRESSION BY AWARDING SYRIA AND EGYPT A PRIZE FOR HAVING ATTACKED ISRAEL. GOI'S HASTE HAD DEPRIVED IDF OF A DECISIVE VICTORY: WAR HAD ENDED IN A STALEMATE GIVING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 08560 241419Z

ARABS OPPORTUNITY TO REBUILD THEIR MILITARY STRENGTH. LIKUD

ALSO REITERATED ITS OPPOSITION TO IMPLEMENTATION OF RES 242, EMPHASIZING ARGUMENT THAT CURRENT WAR HAD DEMONSTRATED HOW ESSENTIAL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WERE TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY.

3. MRS MEIR IN REBUTTAL SAID SHE DISAGREED WITH 99 PERCENT OF WHAT BEGIN HAD SAID, NOTING IN PARTICULAR THAT HE HAD NOT EXPLAINED WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF ISRAEL HAD NOT ACCEPTED US-USSR CEASEFIRE INITIATIVE AND THAT HE HAD NOT OFFERED ANY ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM. QUESTIONING OPPOSITION'S MOTIVATION IN LAUNCHING ITS POLITICAL ATTACK, SHE ASKED WITH SCATHING IRONY WHETHER IT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR THESE FIRST CLARIFICATION TO TAKE PLACE IN PRESENCE OF RADIO AND TV.

4. COMMENT: LAST NIGHT'S DEBATE WAS OPENING GUN OF POLITICAL BATTLE WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED TO RESUME EARLY NEXT WEEK AND CONTINUE UNTIL ELECTION DAY. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT AFTER LAST NIGHT'S STEAM LETTING, PAUSE OF A FEW DAYS IS ASSURED. ELECTION CAMPAIGN CLEARLY WILL FOCUS ON SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES ARISING FROM WAR INCLUDING QUESTIONS OF PREPAREDNESS, ACCURACY OF INTELLIGENCE, AND POLITICAL DECISIONS REGARDING GOI POSITION ON CEASEFIRE, AND NEGOTIATING PROSPECTS. MAIN PLAYERS IN POLITICAL DEBATE WILL BE LABOR ALIGNMENT AND LIKUD OPPOSITION, WITH OTHER PARTIES PLAYING RELATIVELY MINOR ROLE.

5. SEASONED OBSERVERS OF DOMESTIC POLITICS HAVE TOLD US THAT LIKUD MADE TWO MISTAKES IN LAST NIGHT'S DEBATE: IT INCORRECTLY ASSESSED STRONG PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR ACCEPTANCE OF CEASEFIRE, AND IT OPENED ITS POLITICAL ATTACK PREMATURELY. WE AGREED THAT AT THIS MOMENT ISRAELI PUBLIC GENERALLY SUPPORTS GOI ACCEPTANCE OF CEASEFIRE. BUT GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE MANY DIFFICULT QUESTIONS TO ANSWER IN MONTH AHEAD AND WE ANTICIPATE SHARP POLITICAL CONTROVERSY PRECEDING ELECTIONS, WHICH KNESSET REPORTEDLY WILL RESCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 11.
KEATING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, ARMISTICE, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TELAV08560
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS KEATING
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731013/aaaaajoi.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <16-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KNESSET DEBATE OVER GOI ACCEPTANCE OF CEASEFIRE
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005